

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An exposure controller of a digital camera, comprising:  
a photometering sensor; and  
a control device; wherein

said control device ~~performs an exposure operation to calculate~~ calculates a first exposure time in accordance with a photometering value obtained via said photometering sensor;

said control device calculates a second exposure time shorter than said first exposure time in the case where said first exposure time is longer than a reference time duration;

said control device performs a pre-exposure in which a sensitive surface of an image pick-up device of said digital camera is exposed at said second exposure time to calculate a brightness value in accordance with a picture signal which is output from said image pick-up device at said pre-exposure; and

said control device calculates a third exposure time which is to be used at a main exposure, in which said sensitive surface of said image pick-up device is exposed to obtain a picture signal which is to be stored in a memory, by changing the value of one of said first

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exposure time and said second exposure time in accordance with said calculated brightness value.

4. (Original) The exposure controller of a digital camera according to claim 3, wherein said reference time duration is a predetermined flash synchronization speed.

5. (Original) The exposure controller of a digital camera according to claim 3, wherein said exposure time is equal to said first exposure time divided by the Nth power of two ( $2^N$ ).

6. (Original) The exposure controller of a digital camera according to claim 4, wherein said control device calculates said third exposure time in accordance with an average brightness value of all the pixels of said image pick-up device which are obtained by said pre-exposure.

7. (Original) The exposure controller of a digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said third exposure time is calculated by multiplying said second exposure time by an exposure compensation factor;

wherein said exposure compensation factor is calculated by dividing a predetermined value by said average brightness value, and multiplying the result thereof by the Nth power of two ( $2^N$ ).

8. (Original) The exposure controller of a digital camera according to claim 3, wherein said reference time duration is a longest exposure time which can just prevent an

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image formed on said sensitive surface of said image pick-up device from becoming blurry, caused by hand movement.

9. (Original) The exposure controller of a digital camera according to claim 3, wherein said digital camera is an SLR digital camera.

10. (Canceled)